



For Immediate Release

Press Release

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Washington D.C. October 20, 2008 -- U.S. Senator Dick Lugar (R-IN), Co-Chairman of the **Ethanol Across America** education campaign, continued to sound the alarm over U.S. dependence on imported oil this month as he called on the next President to commit to elevating energy security to the status of a core national goal in a major speech at Purdue University Calumet.

According to Senator Lugar, "As our security and environment are threatened by oil dependence, so too are our economic aspirations. The U.S. oil import bill cost about \$53 billion in July 2008, twice the amount of a year earlier. It accounted for 85 percent of the entire U.S. trade deficit that month."

In his Purdue address, Senator Lugar spelled out the connections that make it imperative that the U.S. continue to develop biofuels. "We fight terrorism, yet some of the hundreds of billions of dollars we spend each year on oil imports is diverted to terrorists. We give foreign assistance to lift people out of poverty, yet energy-poor countries are further impoverished by expensive energy import bills. We seek options that would allow for a smaller U.S. military commitment in the Middle East, yet our way of life depends on a steady stream of oil from that region."

Lugar has called for Congress and the next President to commit to establishing a national goal of making competitively priced biofuels available to every motorist in America. He further noted that one of the important tools to increase that availability is the ability to transport ethanol in pipelines and he praised the recent successful tests that demonstrate ethanol can be efficiently and safely used in existing gasoline pipelines.

"Ethanol from corn, specialty energy crops, and other forms of agricultural and municipal waste has the potential to make a dramatic contribution to reducing U.S. oil dependence. Demonstrating that ethanol can be transported by pipeline is an important step in reaching this goal," he said.

Ethanol's current means of transportation are via rail, truck or barge, which some critics have argued makes it less desirable as a national fuel. Senator Lugar has been one of the leading proponents of legislation supporting ethanol in pipelines. The successful runs by Kinder Morgan Energy Partners using ethanol further underscores ethanol's ability to displace significant amount of gasoline according to Lugar.

"The United States should recognize that steps to address energy security and climate change involve economic opportunities, not just constraints. New technologies offer pro-growth solutions that can benefit manufacturing and create value-added products and technologies to bolster U.S. exports. But we must have the will to develop and implement these technologies on an expedited basis. The next President must demand that research projects related to battery technology, cellulosic ethanol, carbon capture and storage, solar and wind power, and dozens of other technologies receive the highest priority within the Administration."

For more information on Energy Security and related subjects, visit www.ethanolcrossamerica.net. And, view more by Senator Lugar at www.lugar.senate.gov/energy.

Ethanol Across America is a non-profit, non-partisan education campaign of the Clean Fuels Foundation and is sponsored by industry, government, and private interests. For more information, log on to www.ethanolcrossamerica.net

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